Symphony No. 10 in F Sharp Major of Gustav Mahler (Chamber Orchestra of Munich, Hans Stattelmaier, conductor; WNCN)

J'ouvre la porte et je me vois ouvrir la porte. J'écris et je me vois écrire. Je pense et je me vois penser. "They [the English in the height of the nineteenth century] thought about what they were thinking and if you think about what you are thinking you are bound to think about it in phrases, because if you think about what you are thinking you are not thinking about a whole thing. If you are explaining, the same thing is true, you cannot explain a whole thing because if it is a whole thing it does not need explaining, it merely needs stating. . . One lives by its whole the eighteenth century thing and the nineteenth century thing lives by its parts" (Gertrude Stein. Lectures in America: What is English Literature). There are those who never think and there are those who sometimes think and there are those who on occasion think and there are those who often think and none of those groups ever thinks about thinking and this is because none understands plain geometry and triangles. And so the sometimes thinkers and the on occasion thinkers and the often thinkers rarely understand aesthetic form and confuse the part and the whole and the whole and the part. In the eighteenth century in France they did a good deal of thinking but very little thinking about thinking and this is true because the Bourbons were still there and after 1830 and after 1848 especially the French began to think about thinking and Courbet and Corot and Flaubert and Baudelaire and Debussy and of course others luxuriated in triangles and they never confused the part and the whole and the whole and the part because the part became the whole. Cézanne said no and that happened because the world could no longer be described by describing parts and pictures and books and music became synthetic once again. Before that happened Mahler wrote ten symphonies and the last one is in-complete and Deryck Cook has presumptuously completed that symphony and it can never be completed because we can not know Mahler's thoughts about his thoughts but we can know that Alexander the Great crossed the Tigris River and the King of Macedonia joined battle with Darius for possession of the Persian Empire. That is a whole thing and like all whole things it merely needs stating.

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